

Federal Energy and Water Management AWARDS 2013



Selectively placed advanced window technology (above) and plenty of daylighting (below) create a comfortable and energy efficient interior space for visitors and staff.



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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service completed its first net-zero energy Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum-certified building in FY 2012 at San Luis National Wildlife Refuge Complex. During the first year of operation, the 16,500 square-foot Headquarters and Visitor Center produced 352 billion Btu via nine solar photovoltaic arrays totaling 59.2 kilowatts. Structural insulated panels; a cool roof; abundant daylighting achieved with tubular daylighting devices, clerestories, skylights, and operable low-e glazed windows; passive and evaporative cooling; and energy-efficient lighting yield energy performance better than 30 percent compared to an average building.

Low-flow and waterless plumbing fixtures reduce water use by 35 percent and save 396,000 gallons annually. Xeriscaping, native plants, limited drip-irrigation, and stormwater containment conserve water outdoors. Low-volatile organic compound (VOC) carpets, paints, and adhesives provide a healthy indoor work environment. Many building elements are composed of recycled materials including countertops; ceiling tiles; wallboard; wheat straw cabinetry; fly ash in the concrete; and certified sustainably harvested lumber, with 90 percent of construction waste recycled. Dynamic, interactive exhibits highlight the facility's green features for an estimated 150,000 visitors annually.